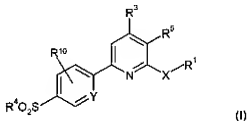


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In the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

X is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and NR^2 ;

Y is selected from the group consisting of CH and nitrogen;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{1-3} alkyl OC_{1-3} alkyl, C_{3-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} alkynyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl C_{0-6} alkyl, C_{4-7} cycloalkyl substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy, C_{4-12} bridged cycloalkyl, $\text{A}(\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7)_n$ and $\text{B}(\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7)_n$;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H and C_{1-6} alkyl; or

R^1 and R^2 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, or a 5-membered heteroaryl ring which is unsubstituted or substituted by one R^8 ;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-5} alkyl and C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, NH_2 and R^9CONH ;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{1-3} alkyl O_2C , halogen, cyano, $(\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl})_2\text{NCO}$, $\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkylS}$ and $\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkylO}_2\text{S}$;

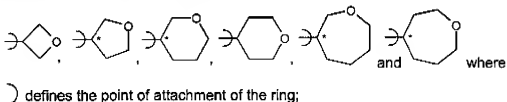
R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from H and C_{1-6} alkyl;

A is an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R^8 ;

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R^8 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy substituted by one or more F, NH_2SO_2 and $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$;

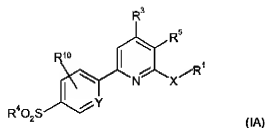
B is selected from the group consisting of



R^9 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, $C_{1-6}alkylOC_{1-6}alkyl$, phenyl, $HO_2CC_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-6}alkylOCOC_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-6}alkylOCO$, $H_2NC_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-6}alkylOCONHC_{1-6}alkyl$ and $C_{1-6}alkylCONHC_{1-6}alkyl$;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen; and
n is 0 to 4.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (IA)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

X is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and NR^2 ;

Y is selected from the group consisting of CH and nitrogen;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, $C_{1-3}alkylOC_{1-3}alkyl$, $C_{3-6}alkenyl$, $C_{3-6}alkynyl$, $C_{3-10}cycloalkylC_{0-6}alkyl$, $C_{4-12}bridged\ cycloalkyl$, $A(CR^6R^7)_n$ and $B(CR^6R^7)_n$;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H and C_{1-6} alkyl; or

R^1 and R^2 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring;

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R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-5} alkyl and C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, NH_2 and R^9CONH ;

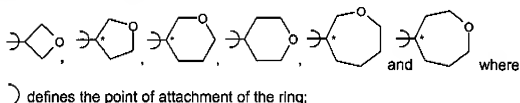
R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, halogen, cyano, $(C_{1-3}alkyl)_2NCO$, $C_{1-3}alkylS$ and $C_{1-3}alkylO_2S$;

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

A is an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R^8 ;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy substituted by one or more F, NH_2SO_2 and $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$;

B is selected from the group consisting of

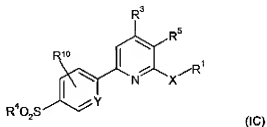


R^9 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, $C_{1-6}alkylOC_{1-6}alkyl$, phenyl, $HO_2CC_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-6}alkylOCOC_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-6}alkylOCO$, $H_2NC_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-6}alkylOCONHC_{1-6}alkyl$ and $C_{1-6}alkylCONHC_{1-6}alkyl$;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen; and

n is 0 to 4.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (IC)



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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

X is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and NR^2 ;

Y is selected from the group consisting of CH and nitrogen;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{1-3} alkyl OC_{1-3} alkyl, C_{3-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} alkynyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl C_{0-6} alkyl, C_{4-7} cycloalkyl substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy, C_{4-12} bridged cycloalkyl, $\text{A}(\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7)_n$ and $\text{B}(\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7)_n$;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H and C_{1-6} alkyl; or

R^1 and R^2 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, or a 5-membered heteroaryl ring which is unsubstituted or substituted by one R^8 ;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-5} alkyl and C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, NH_2 and R^9CONH ;

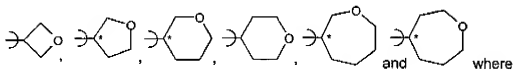
R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{1-3} alkyl O_2C , halogen, cyano, $(\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl})_2\text{NCO}$, $\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkylS}$ and $\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkylO}_2\text{S}$;

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

A is an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R^8 ;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy substituted by one or more F, NH_2SO_2 and $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkylSO}_2$;

B is selected from the group consisting of



) defines the point of attachment of the ring;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkylOC}_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$, phenyl, $\text{HO}_2\text{CC}_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkylOCOC}_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkylOCO}$, $\text{H}_2\text{NC}_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkylOCONHC}_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$ and

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C₁₋₆alkylCONHC₁₋₆alkyl;

R¹⁰ is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen; and

n is 1 to 4.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

X is oxygen;

Y is CH;

R¹ is A(CR⁶R⁷)_n;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₅alkyl and C₁₋₂alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

R⁴ is C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₃alkyl, C₁₋₂alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C₁₋₃alkylO₂C, halogen, and C₁₋₃alkylS;

A is an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R⁸;

R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C₁₋₆alkoxy, and C₁₋₆alkoxy substituted by one or more F;

R¹⁰ is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen; and

n is 0.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

4-ethyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-N-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

4-methyl-N-[(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine; N-[(1,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-4-methyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

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N-[(1,3-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-4-methyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

4-(6-[(1,3-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]amino)-4-ethyl-2-pyridinyl)benzenesulfonamide;

N-[(1,3-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-[(1,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

4-{4-methyl-6-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)amino]-2-pyridinyl}benzenesulfonamide;

4-methyl-N-[(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

N-(cyclohexylmethyl)-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-cyclohexyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-6-[(2-pyridinylmethyl)oxy]-4-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine;

4-methyl-N-[(3-methyl-4-isoxazolyl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-N-(2-pyridinylmethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-cycloheptyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-(cis-4-methylcyclohexyl)-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-(1-ethylpropyl)-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-[(3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-[(5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

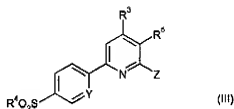
4-methyl-N-[(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

N-(cyclopentylmethyl)-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

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N-[(1-ethyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl)methyl]-4-methyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;
 4-ethyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-[(2-pyridinylmethyl)amino]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;
 4-ethyl-2-[(5-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]amino]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;
 4-ethyl-2-[(6-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]amino]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;
 4-ethyl-2-[(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]amino]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;
 4-ethyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-[(4-methyl-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)methyl]amino]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;
 4-ethyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-[(2-pyridinylmethyl)oxy]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;
 4-ethyl-N-[(1-ethyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;
 4-ethyl-2-[(6-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]oxy]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile; and
 6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-N-[(1-methyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl)methyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine.

7. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound as defined in claim 1 which comprises reacting a compound R¹XH of formula (II), or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



where X is as defined and Z is halogen or a sulfonate, and thereafter and if necessary, interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I), and/or deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I).

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8. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled).
11. (Withdrawn and amended) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from a condition selected from pain, fever, or inflammation, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.
- 12-13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said animal is a human.
15. (Canceled).
16. (Canceled).
17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein said condition ~~which is mediated by COX-2~~ is rheumatoid arthritis.
18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein said condition ~~which is mediated by COX-2~~ is osteoarthritis.
19. (Withdrawn and amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein said condition ~~which is mediated by COX-2~~ is chronic or acute pain.
20. (Canceled).

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21. (Withdrawn and amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein said condition ~~which is mediated by COX-2~~ is post-herpetic neuralgia.

22. (Withdrawn and amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein said condition ~~which is mediated by COX-2~~ is non-specific lower back pain.

23. (Withdrawn and amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein said condition ~~which is mediated by COX-2~~ is dysmenorrhoea.

24. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 2 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from pain, fever, or inflammation which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 2.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said animal is a human.